vailing open sale prices for the purpose of export. Recently, FCI has also been authorised to supply a quantity of 75,000 MTs of rice to STC for export to Bangladesh. FCI has also been authorised to supply 30,000 MTs of Superfine rice to Nepal Food Corporation.

Revival of food security proposal

918. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to revive the food security proposal, as per the report in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 19th February, 1995, entitled: "Government revives food security proposal"; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The question of Food Security in the country is paramount in the making of Food Policy of the country and policies are framed to achieve the objective of food security in the country.

Damaged rise and wheat sold by FCI

919. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether 11,683 metric tonnes of rice not fit for human consumption were sold by the Food Corporation of India for human consumption, as reported in the Hindustan Times of February 21, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the facts and necessary details in this regard;

(c) what are the details of the damaged rice and wheat sold by FCI i.e. quantity and value (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(d) whether according to the Expert Committee the damaged quantities of rice and wheat could not be upgraded and could never be made fit for human consumption;

(e) if so, why and under what circumstances these damaged quantities of rice and wheat were sold by FCI for human consumption;

(f) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; if so, what are the details of the enquiry and what action has been taken against the persons found responsible; and

(g) what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take to obviate the chances of such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, 11,683 Matric Tonnes of sub-standard rice stock was put to sale, which could be made fit for human consumption after upgradation by the purchasers as appeared in Hindustan Times dated 21st February, 1995. However, the sale was not effected. This matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Suprem Court of India.

(b) A quantity of 11,683 Metric Tonnes of sub-standard rice in West Bengal was put to tender sale in August, 1993 with the stipulation that the stocks can be up-graded by the Purchaser and rendered to be fit for human consumption before issue.

Before opening of the tender, 4 Tenderers approached Calcutta High Court on different grounds. While the matter was pending in the Calcutta High Court to recategorise the stocks, one Shri Tapan Kumar filed a writ petition in Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has reserved the order after hearing the arguments.

(c) No damaged rice and wheat is sold by FCI for human consumption.

(d) The Expert Committee had examined a little over 50% stocks of sub-standard rice and reported that the samples have developed off-flavour and discolouration It is possible to remove off-flavour by up-gradation process and discolouration is a natural phenomenon in rice which appears due to prolonged storage

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise. The sale of sub-standard rice by tenders is undertaken as per the directions of Government. The successful tenderer has to up-grade rice stocks before sale for human consumption.

(g) The mode of disposal of these rice stocks will be decided after the final judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is pronounced.

Import of sugar during 1994-95

920. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated quantity of sugar proposed to be imported by Government during 1994-95;

(b) what are the basis of sugar imports projection stating the annual rise in the sugar consumption in 1994 as compared to the consumption in 1993 and the estimated rise in demand in 1995;

(c) the price at which sugar is to be imported from the international market stating the foreign exchange involved; and

(d) how the domestic sugar prices are likely to fluctuate with the import of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Government, during the financial year 1994-95, has so far imported a quantity of about 9.77 lakh tonnes through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

(b) and (c) Further Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for the Public Distribution System in the event of sugar production not coming up to the expected level, have allowed forward contracting for about 5 lakh tonnes of imported sugar for July, August & September, 95 deliveries. So far, a quantity of 3.63 lakh tonnes has been contracted by STC & MMTC at an average price of US dollar 428.25 per metric tonne C&FFO involving foreign exchange of US dollar 1554.53 lakhs.

(d) The impact of import of sugar on domestic sugar prices would be known only when actual import of sugar takes place.

Steps taken by FCI to enhance sorage capacity

921. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a healthy rabi harvest, the country's grain inventory is likely to swell further;

(b) if so the estimated Government procurement for price support operations this season;

(c) whether any action has been initiated by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to arrange for additional storage capacity particularly in the northern wheat growing States; if so, the outcome thereof;